CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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The Electrochemical Combine (Elektrochemisches Kombinat), Bitterfeld, was founded by the Griesheim Electron Company and up to the end of the war belonged to the I.G. Farben Company. Immediately after the war the plant was taken over by SAG Kaustik and officially on 1 May 1952 was assigned to the German administration. After the plant was given back to the German administration, the leading Soviet employees who had been employed there, remained at their jobs. However, nothing is known about their actual assignments. Since 1 July 1952, the direction of the plant, in part comprised of new employees, is as follows:

a. Plant Director - Dr. Ludwig Mensel (SED)

b. Technical Director - Ing. Gerhard Garn (SED)

c. Business Director - Dr. Raimond (fnu)

d. Head of Personnel - Walter Ganzke

e. Production Manager - Dr. Haertel (fnu)

f. Construction Manager - Dr. Lewien (fnu)

g. Chairman of the Plant Labor Union - Hans Steuding

The managers of the individual plants and laboratories are as follows:

a. Calcium carbide - Doerner (fnu)

b. Phosphorus - Ing. Klose (fnu)

c. Phosphorus compounds - Kurt Klemm

d. Sodium - Ing. Mueller (fnu)

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e. Lamp black and graphite - Dr. Engler (fnu)

f. Igelit - Dr. Lombarth (fnu)

g. Nitric acid - Alfred Wilms

h. Hydrocyanic acid - Dr. Lindner (fnu) and Ing. Ueckert (fnu)

i. Linde installation (Lindeanlage) for oxygen and nitrogen - Gonzcik(fnu)

j. Suppenwuerze (soup condiments) - Ing. Meibsch (fnu)

k. Test Laboratory for Technological Development and Further Research - Dr. Lehmann (fnu); Dr. Gerhard Hoffmann -deputy.

The test laboratory is divided into technical departments, TA-1 to TA-14. The following research projects are known to be carried on here:

a. TA-1 - the head is the chemist technician Paul Villardt. The production of hydrocyanic acid, acetocyanhydrin (acetone cyanohydrin), ethylene cyanohydrin, cyanogin and acrylic nitril. The possibilities for increasing the present production on a large technical scale, the military application of these products out of doors as C/W agents, and in this regard, the manufacture of bullet-proof glass, are being investigated.

b. TA-2 - Plastic - the production of plastic or synthetic products.

c. TA-3 - Special organic chemicals.

d. TA-9 - the manager is Dr. Probst (fnu). The manufacture of rocket fuel on the basis of acetylene and oxygen.

e. TA-10 - pharmaceutical research.

f. TA-13 - further technological development of the plant.

On the 28th of July 1952, Department TA-1 received the assignment with the priority rating of 16 1-3/52 to carry out tests for the manufacture of acrylate silicon single layer glass with the highest shock resistance (Schlagbiegefestigkeit). The best solution as to firmness and transparency of at least 97.2 % is demanded. The order was signed by Technical Director Garn. Since the beginning of September, tests for the production of bullet-proof glass - Kompix - have been increased.[1] Its technical properties are: tensile strength = 790 to 1,020 kg per cm^2; bending strength = 1,400 to 1,550 kg per cm^2; shock resistence = 35 to 50 kgs per cm^2; specific weight = 1.195; transparency = 98.5 %; ultra-transparency (for ultra-violet rays)=100%. In the estimate, glass of a strength of 6 mm costs 28 East German Marks per square meter. An installation for its manufacture is being hastily built.

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